## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A prodrug of a hydroxamic acid derivative histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitor, represented by the structure of formula 1:

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wherein R is a residue of a hydroxamic acid derivative histone deacetylase inhibitor; and

R<sub>a</sub> is represented by the structure:

$$R_b$$
 or  $R_c$ 

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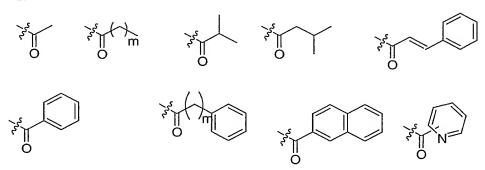
wherein  $R_b$  and  $R_c$  are independently of each other a hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyl, alkylaryl, alkylcycloalkyl, alkylheterocyclyl, alkylheterocyclyl or an amino acid residue; and

R<sub>d</sub> is hydrogen or an amino protecting group;

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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, polymorph or any combination thereof.

- 2. The prodrug according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>b</sub> and R<sub>c</sub> are independently of each other a hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl, phenyl, benzyl, alkylphenyl, napththyl or pyridyl.
- 20 3. The prodrug according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>a</sub> is selected from the group consisting of:



and wherein m is an integer of 1 to 10.

4. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

$$R_2$$
— $N$ 
 $C$ — $(CH_2)n$ — $C$ 
 $HN$ — $OR_a$ 

wherein each of R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently the same as or different from each other and are a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted, branched or unbranched alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, alkylcycloalkyl, alkylaryl, alkylheterocyclyl, alkylheteroaryl, arylalkyloxy, aryloxy, or pyridine group, or R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are bonded together to form a nitrogen containing heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more additional heteroatoms, and n is an integer of 4 to 8.

10 5. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

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$$(3)$$

wherein n is an integer of 4 to 8.

15 6. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

7. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

$$N$$
 $C$ 
 $CCH_2$ 
 $CCH_2$ 
 $CCH_3$ 
 $CCH_4$ 
 $CCH_4$ 
 $CCH_5$ 
 $CCH_4$ 
 $CCH_5$ 
 $CCH_$ 

wherein n is an integer from about 4 to about 8.

8. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

9. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

10. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

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wherein  $R_1$  is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, piperidino, thiazolyl, 2-pyridinyl, 3-pyridinyl or 4-pyridinyl and n is an integer of 4 to 8.

11. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

$$R_1$$
— $HN$ — $C$ — $NH$ — $(CH_2)n$ — $C$ — $N$ — $OR_a$ 

$$(12)$$

wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, piperidino, thiazolyl, 2-pyridinyl, 3-pyridinyl or 4-pyridinyl and n is an integer of 4 to 8.

12. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

wherein A is an amide moiety, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each selected from substituted or unsubstituted aryl, arylalkyl, naphthyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylamino, pyridineamino, piperidino, 9-purine-6-amino, thiazoleamino, hydroxyl, branched or unbranched alkyl, alkenyl, alkyloxy, aryloxy, arylalkyloxy, pyridyl, quinolinyl or isoquinolinyl; and n is an integer of 3 to 10.

13. The prodrug according to claim 12, represented by the structure:

14. The prodrug according to claim 12, represented by the structure:

15. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

$$R_1$$
 $R_2$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_4$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_4$ 
 $R_4$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 

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wherein A is an amide moiety, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each selected from substituted or unsubstituted aryl, arylalkyl, naphthyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylamino, pyridineamino, piperidino, 9-purine-6-amino, thiazoleamino, hydroxyl, branched or unbranched alkyl, alkenyl, alkyloxy, aryloxy, arylalkyloxy, pyridyl, quinolinyl or isoquinolinyl; R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, a halogen, a phenyl or a cycloalkyl moiety and n is an integer of 3 to 10.

16. The prodrug according to claim 15, represented by the structure:

$$R_1$$
 $N$ 
 $R_2$ 
 $R_2$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_4$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_4$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_6$ 
 $R_7$ 

17. The prodrug according to claim 15, represented by the structure:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & & & & \\ & &$$

wherein n is an integer from about 3 to 10.

5 18. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

$$R_1$$
 $R_2$ 
 $R_2$ 
 $R_2$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_4$ 
 $R_2$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_4$ 
 $R_2$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_4$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 
 $R_5$ 

-wherein L is a linker selected from the group consisting of an amide moiety, O-, -S-, -NH-, NR, -CH<sub>2</sub>-, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>-, -(CH=CH)-, phenylene, cycloalkylene, or any combination thereof wherein R is a substituted or unsubstituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl; and wherein each of R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently a substituted or unsubstituted aryl, arylalkyl, naphthyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylamino, pyridineamino, piperidino, 9-purine-6-amino, thiazoleamino, hydroxyl, branched or unbranched alkyl, alkenyl, alkyloxy, aryloxy, arylalkyloxy, pyridyl, quinolinyl or isoquinolinyl; p is an integer of 0 to 10.

19. The prodrug according to claim 18, represented by the structure:

20. The prodrug according to claim 18, represented by the structure:

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(15b)

21. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

$$R_{2} \xrightarrow{\text{CH}_{2}} N \xrightarrow{\text{CO}_{q}} (CH_{2})_{n} \xrightarrow{\text{C}} C \xrightarrow{\text{NHOR}_{a}} H_{2}C \xrightarrow{\text{(CO-NH)}_{p1}} R_{1}$$

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(29)

wherein

n is 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8;

q is 0 or 1;

p<sub>1</sub> and p<sub>2</sub> are independently of each other 0 or 1;

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 $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently of each other an unsubstituted or substituted aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, alkylaryl, alkylheteroaryl, alkylcycloalkyl or alkylheterocyclyl; or when  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are both 0,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together with the  $-CH_2$ -N- $CH_2$ - group to which they are attached can also represent a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring; or when at least one of  $p_1$  or  $p_2$  is not 0,  $R_1$  or  $R_2$  or both can also represent hydrogen or alkyl.

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22. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

wherein

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n is 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8;

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently of each other a hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, alkylaryl, alkylheteroaryl, alkylcycloalkyl or alkylheterocyclyl.

23. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

wherein

n is 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8;

 $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently of each other a hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, alkylaryl, alkylheteroaryl, alkylcycloalkyl or alkylheterocyclyl.

24. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

wherein

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n is 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8;

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently of each other an unsubstituted or substituted aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, alkylaryl, alkylheteroaryl, alkylcycloalkyl or alkylheterocyclyl; or R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> together with the –CH<sub>2</sub>-N-CH<sub>2</sub>- group to which they are attached can also represent a nitrogencontaining heterocyclic ring.

25. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

$$R_1$$
 $R_2$ 
 $R_2$ 
 $R_3$ 
 $R_3$ 

wherein

n is 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8;

 $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently of each other an unsubstituted or substituted aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, alkylaryl, alkylheteroaryl, alkylcycloalkyl or alkylheterocyclyl; or  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together with the -CH<sub>2</sub>-

N-CH<sub>2</sub>- group to which they are attached can also represent a nitrogencontaining heterocyclic ring.

26. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

wherein A is alkyl, aryl or a group selected from

wherein  $R_1$ - $R_{16}$  are independently of each other a hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, alkylaryl, alkylcycloalkyl or alkylheterocyclyl; or one or more of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_7$ , and  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{12}$ , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a nitrogencontaining heterocyclic ring; and

l, p and q are independently of each other 0, 1 or 2.

27. The prodrug according to claim 1, represented by the structure:

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wherein

A is alkyl, aryl or a group selected from:

wherein R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>16</sub> are independently of each other a hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, alkylaryl, alkylcycloalkyl or alkylheterocyclyl; or one or more of R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub>, and R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a nitrogencontaining heterocyclic ring;

10 B is

n is 0 or 1; and

l, p and q are independently of each other 0, 1 or 2.

15 28. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the prodrug of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or hydrate thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

29. Use of the prodrug of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.

- 30. Use of the prodrug of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a thioredoxin (TRX)-mediated disease.
  - 31. Use of the prodrug of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease of the central nervous system.
- 10 32. Use of the prodrug of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a tumor characterized by proliferation of neoplastic cells.